

Snow Survey results

Course measurements taken of the Sierra snowpack today are close to estimated water content values from snow sensors statewide. Here are snow survey numbers from the Department of Water Resources manual course readings near Echo Summit:

Echo Summit; 7,450'	26" snow depth	7.8" water content	63% of average
Lake Audrain; 7,300'	30.3" snow depth	9.7" water content	70% of average
Phillips Station; 6,800'	29.2" snow depth	7.3" water content	60% of average
Tamarack Flat; 6,500'	28.9" snow depth	7.1" water content	61% of average

That is a comparison to January 1 long-term average for the water content.

It is welcome news to have a major storm approaching, since statewide sensor measurements are similar to this 60% value for the season. If projections hold out, within a week we will be back to 'average' for the season. By that I mean, precipitation across the Northern Sierra, as well as snow water content should be much closer to 100%. Possibly even above that. But the next snow course measurements won't be made again until February 1. They will be conducted near the 1st of the month up until May. This next week could possibly give us a whole January's worth of precipitation. But we'd need the wet weather to continue into spring for us to end the year near 'average.'

Last year's April 1 snow course water content was 40% of average; the lowest since 1988 which was 30%. The lowest of record was 1977 at 25%, with the highest in 1983 and 1969 at 225%.

Latest 7-day projections, with a nice storm next Tuesday or so for the Northern Sierra!

So Cal Burn areas	4-8" (possibly more near Zaca)
North Coast	12-14"
Northern Sierra	12-16" +
Central/Southern Sierra	12-14"

Another letter will go out next week with some storm totals.

Media questions about the snow survey, or this storm can be directed to:

Elissa Lynn

Senior Meteorologist

Department of Water Resources

(916) 574-2221

(NOTE: this email is produced through a plain text manager. The tabs don't always come out right, nor can they be double checked during the process. Apologies for misalignments!)

(EL)

Weather_and_Climate_News

Modify your subscription settings at

http://listhost2.water.ca.gov/mailman/listinfo/weather_and_climate_news